Maternal Life-History Type and Natal Rearing Origin of Adult Steelhead in the Yakima Basin

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Acknowledgements

Joe Blodgett, YN Dave Fast, YN

Jim Hobbs, UC Davis

Shadia Duery, CFS
Jay Vaughan, CFS
Tommy Garrison, CFS
Steve Cramer, CFS

Funding

Yakima Basin Joint Board

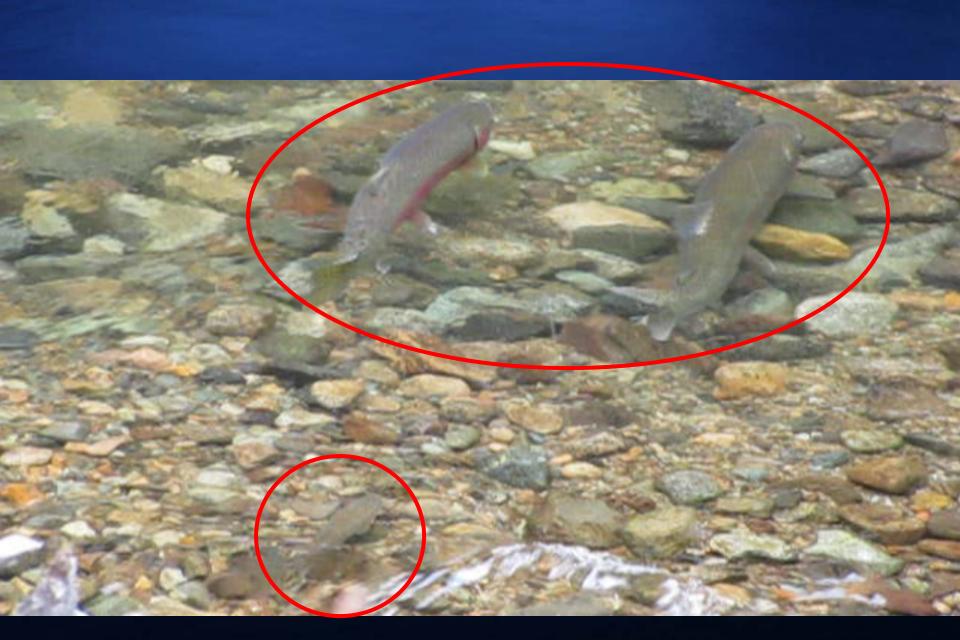


Photo Credit Eric Anderson

Hypotheses

A significant number (≥10%) of resident rainbow trout offspring migrate to the ocean and return as adult steelhead.





Otolith strontium isotope geochemistry

Radiogenic Decay

87
Rb $\longrightarrow ^{87}$ Sr $t_{1/2} = 48.8 \text{ B yr}$

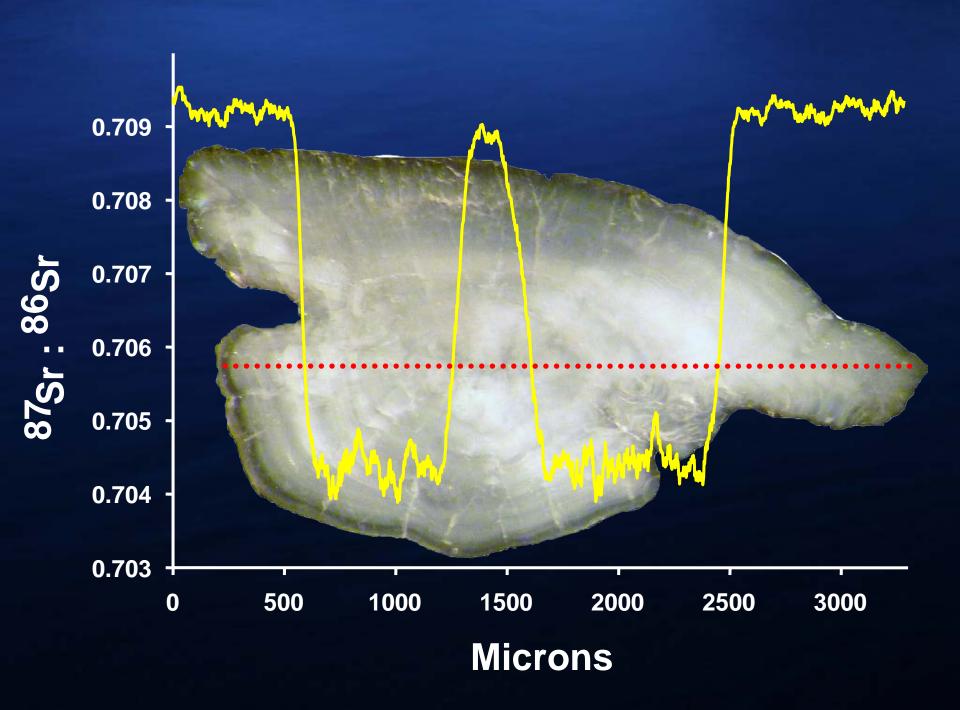
Natural abundance of stronitum isotopes

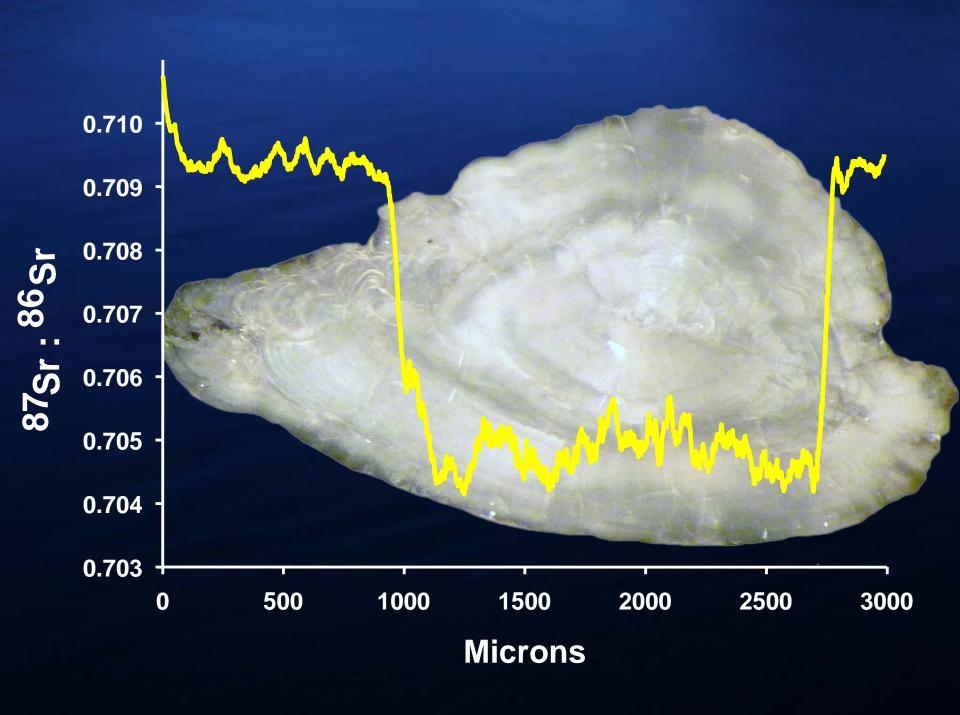
87
Sr = 7% = 0.7...

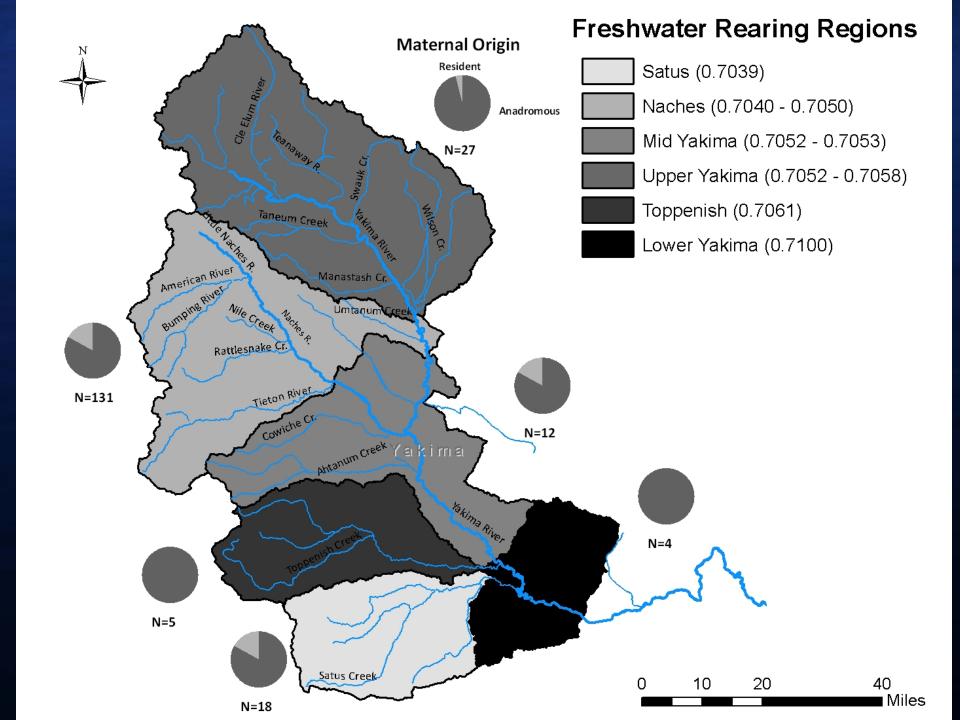


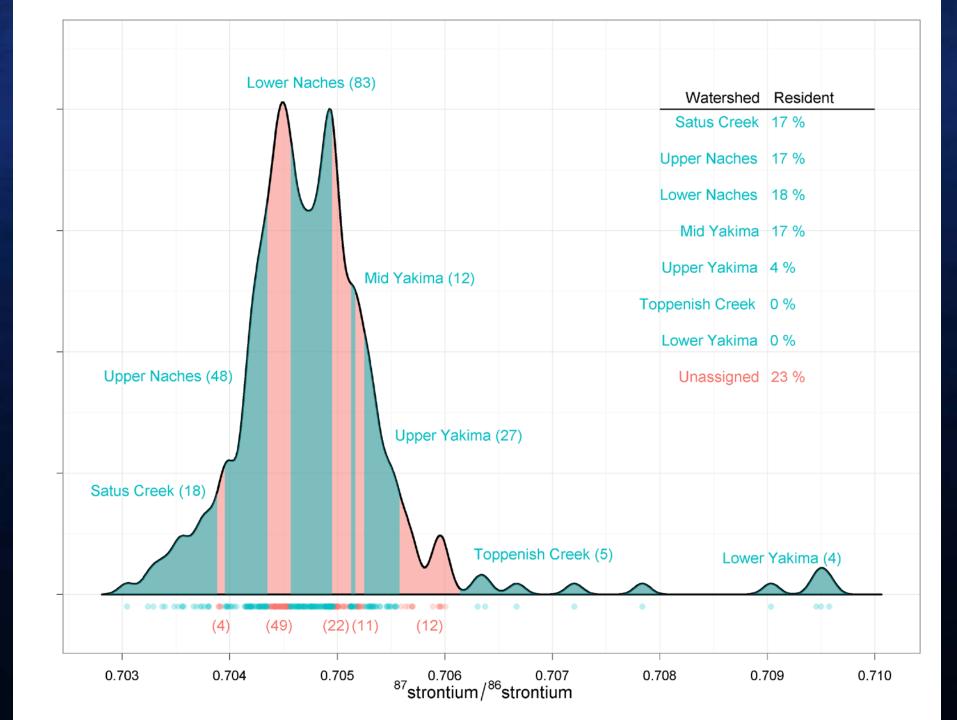
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Conclusions

• O. mykiss populations in the Yakima Basin are partially anadromous, and significant numbers of offspring from resident trout are adopting an anadromous life-history.

17% resident maternal origin30% or more have at least one resident parent

- The upper basin may be more influential than previously thought
- Management implications?

Plans for 2011

 Collect additional water samples in Satus Creek, Toppenish Creek, and Lower Yakima River.

Collect a representative sample of the entire kelt emigration

Develop additional validation tests

Questions/Comments



